

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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By: **Senators Pugh, Benson, Conway, Forehand, Jones–Rodwell, Manno, McFadden, Montgomery, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Gift of a Statue of Harriet Tubman to the United States Government**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Governor authorize the gift of a statue of  
4 Harriet Tubman to the United States government; requesting the Governor to  
5 request the United States Congress to place the statue in a certain building;  
6 requesting the Governor to establish the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission  
7 that, under the supervision and direction of the State Treasurer, would raise  
8 certain funds and be composed of certain members; and generally relating to the  
9 gift of a statue of Harriet Tubman to the United States government.

10 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born a slave under the given name Araminta  
11 Ross in Maryland in about 1820; and

12 WHEREAS, Beaten severely as a child, she also suffered a traumatic head  
13 injury at the hand of a slave owner early in her life, which caused a lifetime of  
14 headaches, seizures, and vision difficulties; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1849, she fled north to freedom and then immediately returned  
16 to Maryland, risking her life to free her family; and

17 WHEREAS, She joined the Underground Railroad, which was a secret network  
18 for free African Americans and white sympathizers who helped runaways escape the  
19 South; and

20 WHEREAS, She became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, risking her  
21 life time and time again to return to Maryland and lead slaves to freedom; and

22 WHEREAS, Known as “the Moses of her people”, she was so successful that  
23 furious slaveholders put a huge price on her head; and



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1           WHEREAS, When the Civil War began, she became a Union spy, organizing an  
2 espionage network of slaves and freedmen who operated behind Confederate lines; and

3           WHEREAS, On several occasions, she led military raiding parties and also  
4 tended to the Union wounded as an army nurse; and

5           WHEREAS, After the Civil War, she devoted herself to women's suffrage, the  
6 care of orphans and invalids, and the establishment of freedmen's schools in the  
7 South; and

8           WHEREAS, The 100th anniversary of her death occurs on March 10, 2013; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
11 General Assembly requests the Governor to:

12                   (1)     authorize the gift of a statue of Harriet Tubman from the citizens  
13 of Maryland to the United States government;

14                   (2)     request the United States Congress to place the statue in the U. S.  
15 Capitol Building; and

16                   (3)     establish the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission that, under the  
17 supervision and direction of the State Treasurer, would raise private funds to be used  
18 to pay for costs associated with the statue and that would consist of five members,  
19 appointed by the Governor, who are representatives from the nonprofit organizations  
20 and other groups that contributed to the passage of this Resolution and will contribute  
21 to the funds to be used for paying for the costs associated with the statue; and be it  
22 further

23           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
24 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the  
25 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
26 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.